



CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE

AFSCME COUNCIL 15

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Testimony in support of:

Senate Bill No. 417 AN ACT CONCERNING CALL CENTERS AND THE TIMELY REPAIR OF PUBLIC UTILITY POLES

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Council 15 represents over 4,000 sworn police officers from over sixty cities and towns in Connecticut. We support Raised Senate Bill No. 417 because in addition to the very important issue of maintaining a viable work force in the State, Section 4 (NEW) provides a proposal that increases efficiency and thereby saves costs, restores utility services to consumers who rely upon hard wired utilities, especially during times of inclement weather, and provides for the speedy return of police officers at the scene of downed utility poles and wires to higher priority duties.

When utility services are interrupted due to a motor vehicle accident, inclement weather, or other disaster taking down wires and utility poles, good public policy dictates the scene be evaluated at protected until such time that any hazard is removed and the area is made safe. At times, the areas of danger extend beyond the immediate scene requiring additional personnel to cordon off streets and prevent direct pedestrian traffic away from the hazard.

Public safety concerns at the scene of downed wires and utility poles are the responsibility of and are performed by the presence and authority of police personnel and well marked police vehicles. Most incidents of this nature occur during the night season and/or during inclement weather when resources are already spread thin, and the need to have a timely response and restoration of normal, safe conditions is important. We believe that Section 4 addresses these concerns.

Thomas R Carozza Sr
Director of Legislative Affairs